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Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance: special economic assistance to individual countries or regions

International assistance to Rwanda for the reintegration of returning refugees, the restoration of total peace, reconstruction and socio-economic development

Report of the Secretary-General

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I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 51/30 H of 17 December 1996, on international assistance to Rwanda for the reintegration of returning refugees, the restoration of total peace, reconstruction and socio-economic development. In that resolution, the Assembly, welcoming the manner in which Rwanda had handled the massive and sudden repatriation of refugees from eastern Zaire[1] and Burundi, and stressing the need for the Government of Rwanda to continue its efforts to support the voluntary repatriation, resettlement and reintegration of returning refugees, requested all relevant United Nations agencies, funds and programmes to provide all possible assistance and encouraged them to coordinate with the Government of Rwanda and the coordinator of United Nations activities in Rwanda in order to address the emergency and long-term development needs of Rwanda. The Assembly welcomed the commitment of the Government of Rwanda to cooperate with and to take all necessary measures to ensure the safety and security of all humanitarian personnel.

2. The Assembly called upon the international community to continue its assistance, with a view to alleviating the intolerable conditions in Rwandan prisons and to expediting the processing of cases, and encouraged the Government of Rwanda to continue its efforts to improve the judicial system, including by expediting the trial process, and to continue to improve the situation in the prisons.

II. Significant developments from August 1996 to September 1997

A. Repatriation and refugees

3. Between November 1996 and September 1997, over 1,350,000 Rwandan refugees returned to their home country, largely owing to the increased political turmoil in the eastern region of the former Zaire and the dangers faced by refugees there. The return of refugees represented one of the largest single voluntary repatriation movements in African history. Over 850,000 refugees returned from the former Zaire and approximately 500,000 from the United Republic of Tanzania. Despite efforts to locate and repatriate the remaining Rwandan refugees, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) estimates that over 200,000 refugees remain unaccounted for in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

4. The violence in the eastern region of the Democratic Republic of the Congo also made it more difficult for United Nations agencies to operate in the field, severely restricting the movement of staff while isolating remaining refugees from aid agencies. Between May and September 1997, UNHCR repatriated 65,000 Rwandan refugees by air.

5. Since the repatriation started from the eastern region of the former Zaire in November 1996, UNHCR reports that 25,601 unaccompanied children have been repatriated, of whom 70 per cent were reunified with their families or relatives. Among the refugees returning from the United Republic of Tanzania were 2,218 separated children, of whom 53 per cent were reunited with their families or relatives.

6. During the mass repatriation, the number of deaths recorded was low, reflecting the relatively good health of the returnees. This contrasted markedly with the health of the refugees returning from January 1997 onwards to Cyangugu, Gisenyi and Kigali, after months of hiding in the forest. The last returnees repatriated from the Kisangani area were also suffering from severe health problems. There was an average of 2 to 3 deaths per day in all age groups owing mainly to malnutrition, anaemia and diarrhoea.

7. When being repatriated by air, those medically at risk were identified at the arrival airports by UNHCR operational partners and further medical screening and referrals were carried out at transit centres. The sick were escorted either directly to the local hospitals or to medical facilities. Those suffering from moderate malnutrition (70 to 80 per cent of weight for height) were escorted home and encouraged to visit the nearest malnutrition centre in their commune. Those with severe malnutrition remained at the centre.

8. A Joint Reintegration Programming Unit has been established by UNHCR and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). In accordance with an agreement signed in March 1997, UNHCR and UNDP will assist the country with reintegration efforts through the transitional phase that links relief and return of refugees to development.

B. Justice

9. The international community continued to provide substantial support to the establishment of a functioning system of justice in Rwanda and noted an improvement in the conduct of the genocide trials during June and July 1997. After the institution of the confession-and-guilty-plea procedure, an increased number of confessions have been offered and accepted, totalling 19 during June and July.

compared to one during the first four months of the trials in December 1996. During the same two-month period, the number of prosecution witnesses appearing in court increased twofold. Most of the accused have been provided with lawyers by the non-governmental organization *Avocats sans frontières*.

10. Thus far, 118 judgements have been handed down in 31 trials, with 53 of the accused being convicted as category one offenders (responsible for planning and directing the genocide) and sentenced to death. Another 34 defendants were convicted as category two offenders (participated in the genocide), including 32 who were sentenced to life imprisonment and two who were sentenced to 20 years in prison. Twenty-one defendants were given varying sentences of less than 20 years. Eight defendants were acquitted.

11. As at mid-June 1997, the number of persons in detention was estimated at 110,000 (1.4 per cent of the overall population). Overcrowding in many of the communal lock-ups (*cachots*) continues to be a problem, although the transfer of prisoners from the *cachots* to central prisons has increased. The feeding of prisoners in *cachots* remains a major problem. Given the few programmes in existence for feeding detainees in *cachots*, prisoners must be fed by relatives, some of whom are required to walk long distances each day and wait for hours outside the *cachots* for brief exchanges of food and empty containers with their detained family members. This exacerbates an already fragile food security situation in the homes of families of detainees, since those bringing the food are no longer able to till their fields or seek other means of earning an income.

12. Another pressing problem is the detention of minors. Currently in detention are 2,150 boys and male adolescents and 80 girls and female adolescents, presumed to have been between 14 and 18 years of age at the time of their alleged crimes, and 150 boys and 5 girls presumed to have been under the age of 14 years at the time of their alleged crimes. To work exclusively on cases of children and adolescents, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) funds a task force of 40 police personnel, with priority given to the identification of non-responsible children and their transfer to a re-education centre at Gitagata. The first trial for a criminally responsible minor accused of genocide-related crimes was held on 24 September 1997. In addition to minors and adolescents in detention, there are 600 infants accompanying their accused mothers in prisons. For these individuals, the non-governmental organization Save the Children Fund-United States of America is training the Rwandan staff of non-governmental organizations to provide psycho-social services similar to those that they are already providing to women and children in seven other prison facilities.

13. Two three-day seminars were held in each prefecture of the country, organized by the Supreme Court, the Ministry of Justice, the United Nations Human Rights Field Operation in Rwanda and UNHCR. Beneficiaries include more than 5,000 persons directly or indirectly involved in judicial matters. A seminar on procedures for and follow-up to violations of human rights was funded by UNHCR and organized jointly with the Gendarmerie national. A four-month intensive training for the Inspecteurs de Police judiciaire has also been conducted, and a number of judiciary buildings have been rehabilitated, constructed and equipped to assist with the effective functioning of the country's judicial system. Administrative support in the form of copies of legal documents and office supplies is one of the basic needs that has not been fully met. While training and seminars for judiciary staff continue to be offered, there is an additional need for refresher courses and advanced training.

14. Human rights promotion and education is jointly carried out by the Human Rights Field Operation and Rwandan partners, including communal and national authorities and non-governmental human rights organizations. These programmes continue to target the general population, as well as particular groups, including civil servants, the military, women, youth representatives, teachers and students, increasing awareness of and encouraging commitment to basic human rights principles.

15. Human rights mobile theatre troupes are another medium used to disseminate human rights messages on peace, tolerance and co-existence in Rwandan society. Three troupes (Inganzo, Rafiki and Inganji) are presently performing in Byumba, Gikongoro, Gitarama, Kibungo and Kigali Ville prefectures.

16. Monitoring activities in some parts of the country have been hampered by a lack of adequate security. Soldiers of the former Rwandese Armed Forces, members of the *interahamwe* militia and other extremist elements continue to spread fear in the western provinces of Ruhengeri, Gisenyi, Kibuye, Cyangugu and Gikongoro and prevent the Government of Rwanda from establishing complete control in all its territories. Counter-insurgency operations by the military have led to violent clashes in which civilians are often victims.

III. Rehabilitation, reconstruction and socio-economic development

17. The Government is embarking upon an extensive rehabilitation agenda and believes that reintegration and reconstruction programmes are more relevant to the needs of Rwanda than relief assistance programmes. Reintegration and the provision of adequate housing remain major priorities for the aid community, in addition to ensuring that humanitarian needs are met.

18. Some controversy has surrounded the *umugudugu* policy of the Government whereby it regroups people into villages, and the results of the implementation of the policy have been mixed. There have been successful sensitization campaigns in parts of the country (in Kibungo prefecture in particular) where government authorities, UNHCR and participating non-governmental organizations have worked closely with the returnees to start new lives in grouped housing settings. In some areas, flexibility on the part of local authorities has allowed the inhabitants of communes to rehabilitate their homes and keep them in their original locations.

19. Confusion among peasants, however, remained widespread as contradictory decisions were adopted by some local authorities. Not all local authorities were equally committed and equipped to help returnees to recover their properties. Although it is not possible to obtain reliable figures, many of those who have returned since November 1996 have not recovered their properties.

20. Most difficulties in the allocation of shelter and land arise in areas where large numbers of old-caseload refugees have settled. When the new-caseload returnees arrive at their homes of origin, they are entitled by government decree to recover their properties within a reasonable amount of time. In some instances, the two groups of returnees actually share accommodation and agricultural land but to avoid further conflict there is still a need to identify and provide an alternative for the latter. Where numbers of old-caseload returnees are minimal, the settlement and the preparation of housing has been less problematic and has facilitated the application of government policy. In some communes the availability of land is a problem, whereas in others the problem is access to potable water.

A. Agriculture, food production and food security

21. Although the improvement of food security and the redefinition of agricultural strategy are priorities of the Rwandan Government, returnees were only able to partially participate in agricultural production in the current season, leading to an increased fragility in the food security situation. The Government now estimates that some 2.1 million of a current population estimated at 7.4 million, that is, 30 per cent of Rwanda's population, are especially vulnerable or in need of food assistance.

22. In recent years, agricultural production has steadily increased from a low in 1994, where it represented 61 per cent of the 1990 production, to a high in 1996 where it was at 77 per cent of 1990 levels. Despite problems surrounding a lack of sufficient agricultural input, the generally good rainy season has had a positive impact, indicated in preliminary reports following an evaluation of the current season's yield in June. For the current season, an estimated 265,000 vulnerable and recent returnee households benefited from the distribution of agricultural input (3,200 tons of seeds and 530,000 hoes), enabling them to participate in production activities.

23. According to the most recent joint crop assessment mission conducted by the Government of Rwanda, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Food Programme (WFP) in June 1997, food production in the second agricultural season in 1997 increased by about 7 per cent over that of the same season in 1996, mainly owing to an increase in the areas cultivated. The localized drought of January-February 1997 and the heavy rains of March-April 1997 have, however, negatively affected the yield in those areas. The return of over 1.35 million refugees since November 1996 has significantly decreased the per capita food availability. As a result, Rwanda will continue to depend on targeted food aid and food-for-work programmes during the forthcoming six months.

24. Studies conducted by the United States Agency for International Development, FAO, WFP and Save the Children Fund-United Kingdom point to significant food shortages, and the preliminary results from the crop assessment report of FAO, WFP and the Ministry of Agriculture, although indicating a 7 per cent increase in production from the mid-year harvest in 1996, emphasize that the massive return of refugees leaves particular areas prone to food shortages. The prefectures of Butare, Gikongoro and Kibuye have experienced the largest

shortfall, meeting only 75 per cent of their food requirements. A study by Save the Children Fund-United Kingdom in Butane and Gikongoro shows that former refugees who returned to these areas prior to March 1997 will experience a shortfall in their income needs of between 30 and 40 per cent.

25. The food security and agricultural strategy for the country is being finalized with the assistance of FAO and UNDP. In this framework, the priority issues of land tenure and occupation have particular importance. The aim is to increase agricultural production in the coming seasons and to scale down free food distributions. The focus is not only on emergency assistance but also on providing support to mid-term and long-term policies that will allow the creation of conditions for sustainable agricultural production, increase production capacity, upgrade storage, transport and marketing and support diversification from subsistence agriculture by providing alternative opportunities for earning a living, particularly at the rural level.

26. Various programmes, including-food-for work, are being aimed at the reclamation of land, support for diversification and micro-enterprise, rehabilitation of production capacities and improvement of transport networks. The slow rehabilitation of livestock, especially in the small animal sector, has further aggravated the food security of the rural population and has had negative ramifications on soil fertility and thus agricultural production capacity.

27. By the end of July 1997, WFP had dispatched six months of food assistance to 1.3 million returnees settled in 153 communes, thus ending its overall commitment to free food distributions. From November 1996 to end-June 1997, WFP delivered and assisted in the distribution of 104,249 metric tonnes of food, the equivalent of 7.8 million full monthly rations. Twenty-five per cent of this food went to the continued rehabilitation of Rwanda through food-for-work programmes and through assistance to the poorest members of society via nutritional centres, with an overall beneficiary population of 300,000 each month. In order to build local administrative capacity, food is now being distributed at the communal level by local authorities with support, training and monitoring provided by WFP. The monitoring of distributions has, however, been more difficult in 1997 owing to the prevailing security situation in the western part of the country.

28. According to WFP, the food pipeline situation is adequate in terms of committed stocks up to August/September 1997. Owing, however, to the logistical constraints of getting food into the country, and the distribution constraints existing within Rwanda as a result of security problems, the volume of distribution has been lower than the optimal target since January 1997. The security situation, particularly in those areas of western Rwanda that have received large numbers of refugees, has hampered distribution. On average, WFP has managed to distribute around 15,000 tons per month of a target of 18,000 tons.

B. Reintegration

29. The return of refugees created serious difficulties for the Rwandan economy and society as a whole with respect to their reinstallation and reintegration. Taking into account an economic situation seriously weakened by the events of 1994, the smooth reintegration of all citizens is a complex task that must be accomplished without delay. In order to focus on the needs of both returnees and the communities to which they have returned, the Government has identified the areas and sectors for which reintegration and reinstallation assistance is most urgent.

30. Although the macroeconomic situation is presently improving with a recovery of gross domestic product (GDP) and falling inflation, Rwanda still faces deep-seated economic problems, with GDP at 65 per cent of 1990 levels and a budget deficit of 14 per cent of GDP. With the worst of the emergency having passed, it is imperative to provide a firm foundation for settlement strategies. At the same time, improved land use and the integration of infrastructural development and economic regeneration should be encouraged by the elaboration of development plans at the communal and prefectural levels, based on needs assessments carried out in the communes. Such development plans will serve as a tool to assist local authorities in clearly establishing their priorities and in the coordination of activities of the organizations working in the prefecture.

C. Water and sanitation

31. In 1996, the water supply coverage for the rural population was estimated at 70 per cent: 24 per cent by adduction and 46 per cent by protected wells. Yet few communes have sufficient access to clean water for all inhabitants, despite the existence of scores of rivers and lakes in the country. Existing systems are being rehabilitated and pipelines extended, but the fact remains that 30 per cent of the rural population is spending too much of its productive time travelling too far for water or is dependent on unclean

water sources for its daily needs. With a rural population of 6.4 million, that translates to nearly 2 million Rwandans without clean water. Among the urban population, 90 per cent have access to water through public taps or private connections.

32. The reliance on traditional sanitation facilities in rural areas and limited access to more modern ones reflects unsatisfactory conditions for segments of the population. Expanded health education is therefore in order to make these segments aware of unsanitary conditions and encourage better hygiene practices.

D. Education

33. The educational situation has deteriorated sharply as a direct consequence of the trauma and devastation associated with the civil war in 1994. In 1996, Rwanda had 1,880 primary schools with 1,017,468 primary school students, of whom 49.8 per cent were girls. In 1996, there were 17,180 primary schoolteachers, of whom 49 per cent were qualified.

34. The current secondary school enrolment of 90,851 students (48.5 per cent female) is 38 per cent lower than pre-war levels and, although enrolment in higher education in 1995 equalled that of previous years, of the 3,391 candidates for the scholastic year 1996-1997, only 600 were accorded places because of a lack of accommodation.

35. The informal education system was hit particularly hard by the war, with 1,548 of 1,943 operational literacy centres being totally destroyed, while another 364 were partially damaged. With an illiteracy rate estimated at 60 per cent in 1996 and a survey showing that 57.2 per cent of illiterate persons are women, the demand for assistance to this sector is even greater.

36. With the recent return of refugees, the Ministry of Education estimates that an additional 200,000 students and 4,500 teachers must be integrated within the school system in 1997.

37. The construction and rehabilitation of primary, secondary and technical schools throughout the country is not uniformly undertaken and school materials and equipment are more often than not seriously lacking. School fees, however minimal, cannot be met by many of the children among the returnees.

38. With the evident need for tradesmen and technical people, such as carpenters, masons, plumbers, land surveyors and other skilled labourers, a number of non-governmental organizations and UNHCR are assisting with the rehabilitation of vocational and technical training centres. The skills of young returnees and women are also being improved through vocational training initiatives.

39. Some social assistance programmes are working fairly well, among them a mechanism for the identification of orphaned children by communal and sectoral committees and their subsequent exemption from paying primary school fees. How long this can continue given the over-extension of local capacities remains to be seen. Flexibility in the application of restrictions and requirements has enabled other underprivileged children to receive an education, as rules dictating the obligatory wearing of uniforms in many cases have been provisionally relaxed.

40. Despite the efforts to make education available to the poor, rural Rwanda does not have a universal understanding of the importance of education and, as a consequence, significant percentages of school-aged children (38 per cent gross rate) do not attend school. One reason is the widespread poverty which means many families must focus their attention on activities that yield immediate results and put food on their tables. There is a need for sensitization campaigns to encourage parents to send their children to school.

E. Women and children

41. Women and children often face special problems. As at January 1997, 2,641 children were detained, the vast majority for allegedly having participated in the genocide. Only one child has been tried. Children placed with foster families are sometimes confronted with abuse; others are victims of violence based on ethnicity. Women continue to face legal discrimination since there is inequity in the labour and inheritance laws, as well as in customary law.

42. Malaria, acute respiratory infections and diarrhoeal diseases are the main causes of child mortality and only 44 per cent of all households are within 5 kilometres of a health facility. Teenage pregnancy, especially among the returnees, has increased dramatically. There is also a reported increase in hospitalization for complications arising from unsafe abortions, especially in young women in urban areas.

43. Analysis of underlying causes of diseases indicates a low utilization of health services in rural areas and a shortage of qualified personnel and equipment. In 1996, the percentage of underweight children under five years of age was found to be 27.3 per cent, with 10.7 per cent severely underweight. Of the children less than five years of age

assessed, 41.8 per cent were stunted, 20.6 per cent of them severely so. With an estimated 200,000 children already living with foster families in Rwanda, the arrival of 6,160 more unaccompanied minors on flights from various points in the eastern region of the Democratic Republic of the Congo raised the humanitarian community's concerns. Since in the latter stages of the operation many have been arriving with other returnees, rather than exclusively in unaccompanied children's groups, UNHCR operational partners, Médicins sans frontières and Concern Worldwide, meet the children at the airport and transport them to transit centres where separate facilities are available for them.

44. Departures from the transit centres to their communes of origin are slower for children owing to tracing requirements which are undertaken by Save the Children Fund, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and other organizations. Nevertheless, generally within a few days of arrival, children are transported to their prefectures of origin where centres have been established to receive them. Follow-up after reunification has been hampered in some prefectures owing to the prevailing security situation. By mid-June 1997, the reunification rate had reached an all-time high, with 88 per cent of arriving unaccompanied minors being reunited with family members within days of their arrival at the prefecture. Nonetheless, between 900 and 1,000 very young children who are unable to give their location of origin remain at the centres.

F. Health and nutrition

45. Although 50 per cent of the health sector's infrastructure has been rehabilitated and 40 per cent of its centres and hospitals have been re-equipped, insufficient numbers of adequately trained staff, the persistent lack of materials and equipment in the remaining 60 per cent of the country's health establishments, and means of communication between health centres and referral hospitals, remain major concerns. There is a high prevalence of malaria, diarrhoeal and respiratory diseases, protein-energy malnutrition and acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) that requires improvements in diagnostic and treatment capacities, for both outpatients and inpatients. A step forward in improving health services has been the creation of committees at the sectoral and communal levels that have been modestly successful in the promotion of the Bamako Initiative in much of the country.

46. The nutritional situation in 1996 indicated serious problems, in particular among children, pregnant women and lactating mothers. The situation has deteriorated further with the arrival of additional vulnerable populations.

47. In response to the situation, during the first half of 1997, WFP, in collaboration with the Government of Rwanda and partner agencies, delivered 4,000 metric tonnes of mixed food commodities (a total of 400,000 monthly rations) primarily for use in nutritional centres and for inpatient feeding reaching as many as 60,000 to 70,000 people, primarily women, children and AIDS patients, each month. In the light of the continued high prevalence of protein-energy malnutrition, UNICEF and WFP plan to enhance the protein content of monthly rations through the inclusion of UNIMIX and high protein biscuits, thus increasing supplementary feeding rations to 77 per cent of the daily needs of the beneficiary.

G. Shelter

48. The Government of Rwanda has identified the provision of shelter as one of its top priorities. By the end of 1996, the Government estimated that there was an immediate need for 253,000 new houses and the rehabilitation of an additional 147,000 houses. As a vivid example of the continued need for shelter assistance, a survey conducted in Kibungo prefecture in June 1997 found 21,962 families still living under plastic sheeting. In response, local and international implementing partners of UNHCR are helping to increase the available housing in Rwanda by providing returnees who are settling on newly designated land with housing construction materials and construction assistance.

49. Shelter construction at the 96 official designated government settlement sites and dispersed locations has intensified since the beginning of 1997. In 1996 and 1997, United Nations agencies supported the construction of almost 50,000 houses. An estimated 30 per cent of the known new shelter requirements have been met.

50. The progress of organized construction activities has been hampered by the time required to identify the beneficiaries, the selection and demarcation of settlement sites, the recruitment of skilled labour, the lack of participation by beneficiaries, and the slow distribution of agricultural plots to beneficiaries. Infrastructural work at settlement sites has also not been completed quickly enough to meet the expectations of the beneficiaries, resulting in lower occupancy rates than desired. The acute shortage of skilled labour in the country has also slowed the pace of infrastructural construction activities.

IV. Constraints on the delivery of humanitarian assistance

51. The principal constraint on the delivery of humanitarian assistance has been the insecurity which has been particularly difficult in the north and north-west, especially in Gisenyi and Ruhengeri prefectures. Travel by humanitarian workers has frequently been prohibited. This has resulted in reduced access and a less than regular delivery of much-needed aid to the vulnerable groups in those areas. The murder of five staff members of the Human Rights Field Operation, two WFP staff members and one UNHCR staff member has clearly impeded the delivery of humanitarian assistance. Without the constant and secure presence of aid workers, it has been difficult to ascertain the exact humanitarian needs of the population and to deliver essential relief items. The Government has endeavoured to help through the provision of military escorts which are obligatory for missions sent by humanitarian organizations to the more insecure prefectures in the country.

V. Non-governmental organizations

52. Nearly all activities supported by funds made available to United Nations agencies in Rwanda are implemented by either government ministries or non-governmental organizations which are present throughout Rwanda. Cooperation between the United Nations and non-governmental organizations is good, which has led to the more effective implementation of relief programmes. Since the United Nations and non-governmental organizations are partners with the Government in the implementation of relief and development programmes, continuous efforts need to be made to link more closely the objectives and interventions of all concerned parties.

VI. Assistance by Member States and other donors

53. In 1996, Rwanda's emergency relief requirements were covered by the United Nations consolidated inter-agency appeal for the Great Lakes region. The appeal has been the most significant fund-raising instrument for humanitarian relief programmes of the United Nations agencies, as well as for some non-governmental organizations. In 1997, the Government of Rwanda indicated that it did not wish to be included in the 1997 appeal for the Great Lakes region since its needs, while significant, related more to reintegration and developmental programmes.

54. Despite the non-participation of Rwanda in the 1997 consolidated appeal for the Great Lakes region, Rwanda has received considerable support from donor countries for humanitarian aid programmes. It totals some US$ 99 million, with the European Community Humanitarian Office and the United States of America being the largest two contributors (US$ 30 million and US$ 19 million, respectively). Other major donors included Norway, Germany, Canada, Sweden and Australia. On 2 June 1997, Member States, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund were invited to provide information on assistance extended to Rwanda in the framework of General Assembly resolution 51/30 H. Responses received are as follows:

(a) Austria contributed SwF 100,000 in humanitarian aid, US$ 90,400 for refugee rehabilitation and post-conflict reconstruction, and S 500,000 in grants;

(b) China contributed 162 tons of rice, two sewing workshops and 38 sewing machines and a grant for the building of hospitals and schools;

(c) Egypt provided US$ 300,000 in the form of medicine, food, tents, blankets, medical equipment and other support;

(d) In 1996 and 1997, Ireland provided £Ir 4,107,270 for the reintegration of returning refugees, the restoration of total peace and reconstruction and socio-economic development;

(e) Italy donated Lit 800 million to the World Health Organization for health and social assistance to women victims of the war; Lit 1 billion to UNICEF for assistance to street children; Lit 500 million to the International Organization for Migration to assist the repatriation of refugees; Lit 1 billion to UNICEF to assist in the rehabilitation of women and children victims of the crisis in the eastern region of the Democratic Republic of the Congo; Lit 3 billion to WFP for a food aid programme; Lit 5.2 billion for three direct management programmes of social, health and food assistance to refugees; and Lit 1 billion to UNDP for a health project in the Mutara region;

(f) Luxembourg contributed a total of LuxF 12.5 million for humanitarian assistance programmes undertaken by UNHCR, Caritas and ICRC;

(g) During the period June 1995-June 1997, Sweden provided assistance to Rwanda, *inter alia*, for the reconstruction of houses, the support and rehabilitation of children, the repatriation of refugees, health care, the justice system and human rights. The assistance provided during the

period amount to SKr 119,000,000. The main implementing partners have been UNHCR, WFP, the Department for Humanitarian Affairs and ICRC. In addition, Sweden's contribution to the refugee programme in the Great Lakes region amounted to SKr 244,000,000;

(h) Over £13,206,000 was provided by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland as bilateral aid in 1996, and £27,230,000 was the country's share of European Union assistance to Rwanda. Amongst the various types of programmes funded by these contributions were those concerning food, water and sanitation, social services, health services, logistical support, humanitarian coordination and rehabilitation activities.

VII. Concluding observations

55. Significant progress was made in the provision of humanitarian assistance in Rwanda in 1996 and 1997 despite the enormous humanitarian needs confronting the Government of Rwanda and the humanitarian community during that period. The difficulties associated with the return and reintegration of 1.35 million refugees, compounded by persistent and severe security problems, challenged the Government and humanitarian organizations alike.

56. Insecurity in the northern and western regions of Rwanda, where numerous vulnerable populations are located, reduced the access of humanitarian workers to the areas, with accompanying reductions in the reach and scope of humanitarian programmes. Particularly reprehensible was the violence directed at innocent civilians and the deliberate targeting and murder of humanitarian and human rights staff, which further inhibited assistance efforts.

57. It is clear that Rwanda's greatest challenge is coping with the legacy of the genocide. A promising start has been made on reintegration programmes but substantial additional resources and, more importantly, a cessation of violence and sustained reconciliation initiatives are required for reintegration to succeed. An immediate priority is the justice sector, where tens of thousands languish in prisons and *cachots* awaiting improvements in the capacity of the justice system to handle their cases.

58. While the emphasis is clearly on rehabilitation and reconstruction programmes, significant humanitarian assistance needs remain to be met. The response of the international community to humanitarian requirements in Rwanda has been admirable but much remains to be done. Continued support of these programmes is necessary in order to ensure at least minimal assistance to the populations most in need.

Notes

[1] Zaire changed its name to "Democratic Republic of the Congo", effective 17 May 1997.